

Message Text

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60
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2021
INFO USCINCSO FOR POLAD

UNCLAS CARACAS 10454

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR CU VE
SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN ELECTIONS: CAMPAIGN ENDS PEACEFULLY

REF: CARACAS 10437 AND 10412

1. THE 22-MONTH VENEZUELAN NATIONAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN ENDED PEACEFULLY AT MIDNIGHT DECEMBER 6, IN COMPLIANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL (CSE). THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO REPORTS OF DISTURBANCES IN CARACAS OR ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY. ALL PUBLIC ELECTIONEERING HAS NOW ENDED.

2. CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ ENDED HIS CAMPAIGN DECEMBER 6 WITH AN IMPRESSIVE MARCH THROUGH CARACAS CLIMAXED BY A TREMENDOUS RALLY IN THE PLAZA ALTAMIRA. THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 6 THE MEDIA WERE SATURATED BY AN OUTPOURING OF CAMPAIGN PROPAGANDA. NO LAST-MINUTE DRAMATIC ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OR BY ANY OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES. HOWEVER, THE COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER TRIBUNA POPULAR HAS ACCUSED THE SHELL OIL COMPANY OF CONTRIBUTING 550,000 BOLIVARES TO AD. SHELL HAS EMPHATICALLY DENIED THIS CHARGE.

3. PRESIDENT CALDERA, IN HIS WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 6, SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT DEMOCRACY IN VENEZUELA. CALDERA TERMED THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND ITS CULMINATION ON DECEMBER 9 A REAFFIRMATION UNCLASSIFIED

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OF VENEZUELA'S FAITH IN THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, AND SAID THAT THE

OCCASION IS ONE FOR REJOICING NOT ONLY IN VENEZUELA "BUT ALSO IN SISTER COUNTRIES WHO SEE IN OUR SITUATION AND ATTITUDE A LIGHT LIT WITH HOPE." CALDERA ALSO PRAISED THE VENEZUELAN ARMED FORCES, "WHOSE LOYALTY IS THE RESULT OF A DEEP AND FIRM CONVICTION THAT THE DEMOCRATIC DESTINY OF THE COUNTRY OFFERS THE BEST POSSIBILITIES FOR NATIONAL-

ISTIC ASPIRATIONS AND FOR BRINGING ABOUT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT."

3. THE CSE IS WORKING OVERTIME DURING THE DECEMBER 7 AND 8 GOVERNMENT HOLIDAYS IN AN ATTEMPT TO REGISTER THOUSANDS OF VOTERS WHO ARE NOT YET INSCRIBED ON THE ELECTORAL REGISTERS OR WHO ARE UNSURE OF THEIR POLLING PLACES. THE MEDIA ARE CONSTANTLY BROADCASTING INSTRUCTIONS AS TO REGISTRATION, AND IT IS HOPED THAT MUCH OF THE EXISTING CONFUSION WILL BE CLEARED UP BY MIDNIGHT DECEMBER 8 WHEN LATE REGISTRATION ENDS.

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